—Encouraging promotional events like participation in international trade fairs, Market surveys and publicity campaigns.

—Exploring trade possibilities through bilateral discussion at Government level with other Countries during Joint Commission/Committee Meetings.

—Further, Government has also set up a Taskforce which has submitted its report on Electronics Hardware Manufacturing.

Quality of Export Items

3071 . SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are getting any feedback regarding quality of our export items, especially traditional items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure high quality of our export items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government formally receives a feedback regarding quality of exports only in the event of a quality complaint. The Regional Sub-committee on Quality Complaints (RSCQC) set up at the regional offices of the DGFT receives and investigates all quality complaints received from foreign buyers. Appendix 50 of Handbook (Vol. 1) provides the guidelines for dealing with the quality complaints.

(c) The Government extends support and assistance to Trade and Industry to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products and also to promote the concept of Total Quality management. A separate chapter on Brand Promotion and Quality has been included in the EXIM Policy.

Tobacco Crop Holiday

3072 . SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Tobacco Board to declare tobacco crop holiday in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested not to declare one year crop holiday in Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government will drop the proposal to declare one year crop holiday since Karnataka has been growing superior quality of tobacco being used for export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Tobacco Board has fixed a crop size for FCV tobacco for the 2000-2001 season in Karnataka.

Special Economic Zones to Promote Exports

3073 . SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish special economic zones to promote exports;

(b) if so, the States where these Economic Zones are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In the Export and Import Policy (1997—2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2000, Government has announced a Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. There is no proposal to set up any new SEZ by the Central Government. However, SEZs may be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. Some of the existing Export Processing Zones are also proposed to be converted into SEZs. Government have also approved setting up of EPZ/SEZ in the joint sector at Nanguneri in Tamil Nadu and Positra in Gujarat on the basis of proposals received from Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited and Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Limited, respectively.

Changes in Labour Laws

3074 . SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: